



Mountain News

Charles George VA Medical Center
Voluntary Service



May - June EXTRA, 2015

Issue # 1504

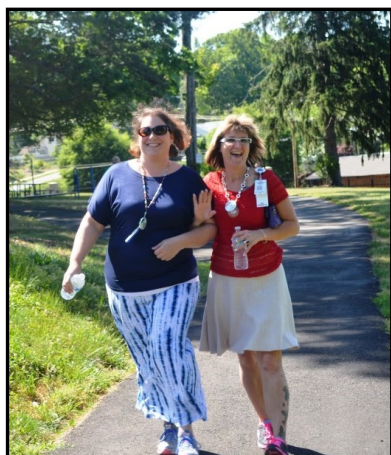
SPRING'S THE THING ... for Vets, Volunteers & Staff

RUN FOR THE WALL— In mid-May, some 450 bikers rolled into the Harley Davidson shop in Asheville on their way across country from LA to the national mall in Washington, DC.



Dozens of residents got to eat, greet and meet with these daredevils who make the ride each year to raise awareness for our POWs and MIAs. Area churches donated BBQ and "fixins;" church members and our volunteers served.

2K WALK N ROLL— Also in mid-May, patients, employees and volunteers laced up walking shoes and hit the trails around our campus. Not only did



they step up their own fitness levels, but they also raised \$350 for homeless vets in our area.

Melissa Parton, Nursing Service and Dawn Cotton, Health Admin enjoy their 2k morning jaunt.

HOT DOG HEAVEN— In June, some 450 vets, staff and volunteers braved the summer heat to enjoy hot dogs, chips and drinks on the front porch of CGVAMC.

Residents were accompanied by family and staff; food came from community donations; and serving lines were manned by our volunteers.

Jimmy Russell, CLC resident and Retired Army, takes it all in.



Lining up to serve, mother-daughter team and Red Cross volunteers Suzanne and Helen Nelson; Youth Volunteer Rebecca Broughton; and VFW Post 891 Ladies Auxiliary member, Barbara Boyd.

ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS

OCTOBER 2

SAFETY FAIR

Charles George VA Medical Center

General Safety

Life, Fire, Radiation and Patient Safety

Hazardous Materials & Waste (GHS)

Emergency Management, Family Preparedness

Medical Equipment

Utilities

Violence in the Workplace

Infection Control, Incl Blood Pathogens

OWCP

GEMS

Compliance & Business Integrity

Integrated Ethics Program

Palliative and Patient Centered Care

Safety Management System Awareness— NEW

Slip/Trip/Fall Prevention — NEW

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

AUGUST 15

CBA MOTORCYCLE (and AUTO) FUND RUN & FIELD DAY

Raising funds to meet CGVAMC hospital
needs.

Time & Place: starts at 9am at Tractor Supply
Co, 14 Monticello Road in Weaverville AND
ends here on Tunnel Road.

**CALL TO SIGN UP,
WE NEED YOUR HELP**

NOTES from THE OFFICE



THIS NEW SUMMER has already brought extremely warm weather, the smell of grilled hotdogs and hamburgers, and students interested in volunteering at CGVAMC.

Summer of Service 2015 has nearly 60 students offering their energy, time and enthusiasm in service to Veterans. Students bring a breath of fresh air, along with generational newness that keeps us thinking young. It is my goal that each student will take their assignment seriously and perhaps make this the beginning of what will become a Lifetime of Service.

Some who returned have volunteered 2, 3, 4 and yes, even 5 years – all at the CGVAMC. It is my sincere hope that they continue their "volunteer careers" throughout their entire lives, realizing that their efforts truly have made a lasting difference.

We all look forward to this summer's youth volunteers surprising and delighting us with their many talents and their inspiring commitment to caring, the heart of the matter here at CGVAMC.

With a grateful heart , Darlene

2015 Summer Youth Program

UP & RUNNIN'

On June 17 the first wave of student volunteers fanned out over our campus lending eager hands and hearts in every department from the canteen to PACU. They come from all walks of life with two things in common: the natural curiosity of youth and a sincere desire to serve.

NIRBHAY SUTARIA is a rising junior headed for the NC School of Math & Science in Durham this fall. His parents are Drs. Leena and Kalpesh Sutaria, primary care physicians at CGVA. He has attended the online Code Academy and hopes someday to make his living in programming.

MAGGIE MEHAFFEY is another self-starter with her sights set on a career in neurology (or "maybe cardiology"). She is a rising 9th grader at Tuscola High School. Her mom, Melissa, is a surgical nurse in PACU. Her goal this summer: to learn all that she can learn.

JOSH LINO is working his 4th summer as a Youth Volunteer and is a member of the newly formed Volunteer Service Youth Council. A rising senior at Odyssey, he says he's torn between careers in marine biology and animation. His mom, Lizzie, is a nurse in our CLC.

KENNETH WILKES is the youngest member of the Youth Volunteers group and a rising 8th grader at Erwin Middle School. Someday he hopes to attend NC State or Western Carolina. His mom, Maria, works in CLC1.

PHILLIP MORRIS is a rising 10th grader at Owen High School with plans to attend Duke or Western Carolina. His dad, Phillip II, was in the Army Reserves. Phillip says he hopes this experience will help hone his leadership skills.

Youth Volunteer Nirbhay Sutaria and Ward Clerk Marti Hanson review intake procedures in PACU, 2nd floor.



Youth Volunteer Maggie Mehaffey gets a lesson on blood pressure readings from Medical Clinic nurse, Cheryl Logan.



Youth Council Leader Josh Lino takes a lunch break after getting members of his youth team fed.



Youth Volunteers Kenneth Wilkes (left) and Phillip Morris stock condiment cubbies in the basement Canteen.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Dear Staff and Volunteers --

I am happy to announce that the Charles George VAMC team has maintained our 5-Star facility status and our #1 ranking in Patient Satisfaction for the second quarter of FY15. Congratulations!

When we first earned our 5-Star Quality rating, I emphasized the importance of not resting on our laurels and continuously striving to improve the care we provide to our patients. I thank each and every one of you for doing just that and honoring our commitment to "care for those who have borne the battle." I am so proud to work with you and be a part of this great team.

Again, thank you for all you do on behalf of America's heroes and thank you for ensuring that our Veterans receive the high quality of care they've earned through their sacrifice for our Nation.

*CYNTHIA BREYFOGLE, FACHE
Medical Center Director*

Veterans' Choice UPDATE

The Veterans Choice Program (VCP) is a new temporary benefit that allows Veterans to access care in their own communities.

We are pleased to announce that program criteria have changed. Rather than straight line distance, the VA will now use driving distance from the nearest VA medical facility to the Veteran's place of residence to determine eligibility.

Who is eligible for the program?

A Veteran must have been enrolled in VA health care on or before August 1, 2014, or be eligible to enroll as a combat Veteran. Additional criteria also must be met.

Veterans must call the Choice Program Call Center at 866-606-8198 to verify eligibility and set up an appointment.

What is the Veterans Choice Card?

VA mailed all enrolled Veterans a Veterans' Choice Card and information about the program. If a Veteran is satisfied and wishes to continue with his/her current VA care, there is nothing they need to do at this time. Veterans should save their Choice Cards in case they would like to use the Program in the future.

Who can help Veterans with questions?

Gene Morris - Gene.morris@va.gov
828-298-7911 ext. 4003



HOSPITAL NEEDS

- ♦ DVD movies and music CD's for Oncology, Recreation Therapy, and Comfort Cart (general audience ratings)
- ♦ Wii (new or used, golf games preferred)
- ♦ Model kits (ships, planes, autos)
- ♦ Unlined journals for writing, drawing
- ♦ Xbox games for Psychiatric Unit, rated E for Everyone
- ♦ Personal listening devices like iPods for diversional therapeutic needs
- ♦ New magazines and new-to-gently used paperback books
- ♦ Coffee, cream and sugar to support out-patient waiting areas
- ♦ Arts and crafts supplies (acrylic and water color paint; sketch pads, colored pencils, markers, brushes, chalks)
- ♦ Tickets for wheelchair-bound Veterans (and helpers) to go to a golf course
- ♦ Gift cards to community restaurants for clients served through Hospice
- ♦ Annual passes to Biltmore House, NC Arboretum, Wolfe Museum, Carl Sandburg Home
- ♦ \$75 Sponsorships for bi-monthly Memorial Services (to cover cost of programs, refreshments, flowers)

Please Note: All materials donated must be smoke, mildew and mold free. We must refuse items that don't meet this standard.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 2

SUMMER OF SERVICE RESOURCE DAY

Information and fellowship for Volunteers & Staff

Time: 11 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Place: CGVAMC, Lower Atrium

AUGUST 1

AGENT ORANGE TOWN HALL

Veterans' Eligibility, Benefits, Applications

Time: 12-6 p.m.

Place: Cherokee County Fairgrounds Expo Hall

AUGUST 4

LISTENING SESSION

Veteran's Concerns Raised & Discussed

Time: 5-7 p.m.

Place: American Legion Post 47, for Waynesville, Haywood & Jackson counties

SEPTEMBER 16

LISTENING SESSION

Veteran's Concerns Raised & Discussed

Time: 5-7 p.m.

Place: American Legion Post 77, for Henderson, Transylvania & Polk counties

OCTOBER 2

2015 SAFETY FAIR

Annual Training for Staff and Volunteers

Time: 6 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Place: Charles George VA Medical Center

DONATIONS & GIFTS

MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAMS BUNCOMBE COUNTY VETS

VA 2K WALK

Shelly Wheeler	GPF 1249
Joseph Antinori	GPF 1249
Elizabeth Lima	GPF 1249
Deborah Moore	GPF 1249
Dave Przestrzelski	GPF 1249
Angela Pentecost	GPF 1249
Kathy Daley	GPF 1249
Bonita Wiedenhaupt	GPF 1249
Pamela Rogers	GPF 1249
Debbie Swayngim	GPF 1249

Claire Tiernan	shower essentials
Teresa Earley	kitchen & toilet items
	17 lap robes
James Johnson	glassware
Christine Cooper	shower curtains
Jennifer Palumbo	kitchen & shower items
Laura Tugman	kitchen essentials
Stacey Bailey	canned, boxed food
Kim Crawley	socks
Dale Cloud	boxes of hand soap
Ashley Durbin	hot pot & peanuts
Suzanne Killian	bathroom essentials

LUNCHES & COOKOUTS

AMERICAN LEGION AUX, DEPT NC
ELKS NATIONAL, MORGANTON
VETS of FOREIGN WARS, AUX POST 891

RUN FOR THE WALL

UPWARD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
CHURCH, HENDERSONVILLE meal

"RISKY BUSINESS" music

HOT DOG COOKOUT

DAUGH of AMER REVOLUTION,
RUTH DAVIDSON CHAPTER onions

MASONIC LODGE 453 chili & ketchup

KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS, condiments
ASSEMBLY 781

AMVETS, POST 333 hot dogs

AM LEGION AUX, DEPT NC chips

PEPSI COLA BOTTLING CO drinks

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE 848 buns

VFW AUX, DEPT NC hot dogs

DAV AUX 57 slaw

"SIMPLE FOLK" music

BINGO

AMERICAN LEGION, POST 77
AMERICAN LEGION AUX, DEPT NC
AMERICAN LEGION AUX, UNIT 48
AMERICAN LEGION AUX, UNIT 77
ELKS NATIONAL, MORGANTON
ELKS DOES, HENDERSONVILLE
VETS of FOREIGN WARS & AUX,
POST 4066
VETS of FOREIGN WARS, POST 5381
VIETNAM VETS of AMER, CHAPT 124

Thank you so very much!

more DONATIONS & GIFTS

CHRISTMAS

NAT SOC COL DAMES, PHILLIP LUDELL
CHAPTER
DAU of AMER REV, RUTH DAVIDSON &
HUGH ROGERS CHAPTs

HOSPICE CARE

Susan Cook
Nina Sheppard
Grace White
Beverly Pristas
MILITARY ORDER of the COOTIE

MISCELLANEOUS

VETS of FOREIGN WARS AUX POST 8013
heart pillows

VETS of FOREIGN WARS AUX POST 5198
handmade flags

VETS of FOREIGN WARS AUX , DEPT NC
soft drinks

VETS of FOREIGN WARS AUX POST 6812
butterfly Pillows

DAU of AMER REVOLUTION,
JOHN HOYLE CHAPTER
books, socks, coffee, lap robes, misc

DISABLED AMERICAN VETS
books and magazines

GIRL SCOUTS of AMERICA, TROOP 1797
2 cases of cookies

NAT'L SOC COL DAMES,
PHILLIP LUDWELL CHAPTER
personal care items, greeting cards

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Lap quilts

MISCELLANEOUS

UTD DAU of CONFEDERACY, #104,
#2005, #2603 and #2698
sodas, bottled water

DISABLED AMERICAN VETS, CHAPT 2
magazines and books

DISABLED AMERICAN VETS, AUX ,
CHAPT 2
snacks, lap robes, fleece blanket, art &
craft supplies

ELKS NATIONAL

barbeque, T-shirts, books and music

Keys Pendleton	blue ray DVD player
James Pucket	books
Barbara Sammons	digital photos/prints, lap robes

Lynn Vorys	hardback books
William DeHart	Uniden V-tech cord- less phones

David Herbert	laptop for CLC
Patricia Cole	GPF 1001
Natalie Parce	GPF 1001

VETS of FOREIGN WARS, POST 9281	GPF 1000
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Thank you so very much!

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Mountain News is published bi-monthly as a way of keeping our volunteers informed of activities, opportunities, and needs at the Charles George VA Medical Center.

If you receive a hard copy of this newsletter, **PLEASE** send your e-mail address to **brian.walsh4@va.gov** so that you can begin receiving this newsletter by email.

Our Privacy Policy: Your e-mail address will not be distributed to other parties. We will use it only to distribute the newsletter and/or other VA information.

Why e-mail? Using e-mail saves time, money AND trees. Thank You.

***Want to Volunteer
or Donate?***

If you would like to volunteer, learn about current needs or make a financial contribution, please go to:

<http://www.asheville.va.gov/giving/index.asp>

If you are not currently a volunteer, we invite your application.

Please contact Voluntary Services at
(828)299-2514 for further information.

Tech Savvy?

If you have a smart phone, you may scan this QR code to see the many opportunities for volunteering and donating now available at the Charles George VA Medical Center.

